

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services and Education Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services and Education Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We write to request a \$500 million increase in funding for Alzheimer's research at the National Institutes of Health in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2017.

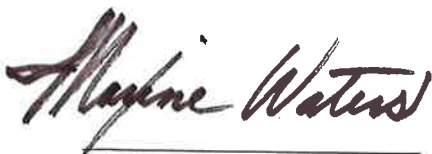
Alzheimer's is a tragic disease affecting millions of Americans, and it has reached crisis proportions. There is no effective treatment, no means of prevention, and no method for slowing the progression of the disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), five million Americans were living with Alzheimer's disease in the year 2013. This number is expected to almost triple to 14 million by the year 2050.

The costs associated with Alzheimer's disease are also growing at an unsustainable rate. A recent RAND study of adults over the age of 70 found that the total economic cost of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia in 2010 was estimated to be \$109 billion for direct care alone. That is higher than the cost of both heart disease and cancer. Furthermore, when the cost of informal care is included, the total costs rise to between \$159 billion and \$215 billion. These costs will rise exponentially as the baby boom generation ages and the number of people living with Alzheimer's increases.

Our nation is at a crossroads. We must act now to change the trajectory of this disease! The National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease calls for a cure or an effective treatment for Alzheimer's by the year 2025. Reaching this goal will require a significant increase in federal funding for Alzheimer's research.

We therefore urge you to provide a \$500 million increase in funding for Alzheimer's research for a total appropriation of \$1.491 billion in fiscal year 2017 for Alzheimer's Disease including Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementias (AD/ADRD). We thank you for your attention to our concerns, and we look forward to working with you to invest in research that will lead to a cure for this devastating disease.

Sincerely,



Maxine Waters
Co-Chair, Congressional Task
Force on Alzheimer's Disease



Christopher H. Smith
Co-Chair, Congressional Task
Force on Alzheimer's Disease



John Garamendi
Member, Congressional Task
Force on Alzheimer's Disease

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Alzheimer's Research at NIH, FY 2017
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March 24, 2016

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